

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2013-213-E - ORDER NO. 2013-544

JULY 24, 2013

IN RE: South Carolina Electric & Gas Company –)	DECLARATORY ORDER
Request for “Like Facility” Determinations)	ON STATUS OF
Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1))	TRANSMISSION LINES
(Denny Terrace-Lyles))	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the June 7, 2013, letter of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G” or “the Company”). SCE&G plans reconfiguration and replacement of its two existing Denny Terrace-Lyles transmission lines and asserts that the proposed action would constitute “the replacement of an existing facility with a like facility” under the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act, S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-33-110(1) (1976), and that the new line and reconfigurations therefore do not constitute “construction of a major utility facility” for which certification would be required. We agree.

The existing Denny Terrace-Lyles Lines are approximately 2.6 miles in length and run between SCE&G's Denny Terrace and Lyles substations which serve electricity to customers in the Columbia and surrounding areas. The Denny Terrace-Lyles Lines are designed to operate at 230 kV in that the lines are located on 230 kV steel lattice towers with 230 kV spacing between the phases on each side of the tower. Although both lines are designed to operate as 230 kV, SCE&G currently operates one at 230 kV and the

other at 115 kV, and will continue to operate the replacement lines in this manner until such time as SCE&G determines that both lines should be operated at 230 kV.

In order to accommodate the power flows from the new nuclear units under construction in Jenkinsville, South Carolina, SCE&G must replace the conductor on the Denny Terrace-Lyles Line 230 kV Line No. 1 with a conductor of a higher capacity rating. The existing steel lattice towers are unable to support the increased loading of the new conductor. SCE&G therefore plans to replace the existing 230 kV double circuit steel lattice tower structures with 230 kV steel, braced post, single pole, double circuit structures within the existing right-of-way corridor using a similar alignment. Like the existing towers, the replacement structures will be constructed with 230 kV spacing between the phase conductors on each side. The replacement lines for the Denny Terrace-Lyles Lines will not result in any significant increase in environmental impact of the facilities or substantially change the location of the facilities.

In conjunction with this replacement, SCE&G also plans to replace the conductor on the Denny Terrace-Lyles 230 (115) kV Line No. 2 which presently operates at 115 kV with a conductor of a higher capacity rating. The Denny Terrace and Lyles Substations are two major transmission substations in the Columbia area. Seventeen (17) transmission lines operating at voltages of 230 kV or 115 kV enter or leave the area in which these two substations are located. These lines transmit approximately 1,000 megavolt amperes ("MVA") into or out of this area during peak load conditions. The Denny Terrace-Lyles 230 (115) kV Line No. 2 is an important part of the power transfer between these two substations. Increasing the capacity of this line will improve the

capability of these two substations to support each other and provide increased reliability now and into the future.

The Office of Regulatory Staff has completed its review of the Company's request, and by letter dated June 7, 2013, communicated that it has no objection to the request to reconfigure and replace the two existing 2.6 mile transmission lines with "like facilities."

S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-33-110(1) states in part: "The replacement of an existing facility with a like facility, as determined by the Commission, shall not constitute construction of a major utility facility." Construction of "major utility facilities" requires certification by this Commission. We have examined the proposed line replacements and reconfigurations and have concluded that these constitute "the replacement of an existing facility with a like facility," and therefore do not require certification.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nikiya Hall, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)